

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- AI
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- 5 1 A system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a wide-area network, comprising:
- a corporate communication platform coupled to a switched backbone, integrated with a PBX via a PBX interface, and comprising a slave message mailbox cache; and
- a plurality of system communication platforms coupled to said switched backbone, wherein one such system communication platform comprises a master message mailbox, wherein said slave message mailbox cache is synchronized with said master message mailbox.
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2. The system of claim 1, wherein said switched backbone is the Internet.
- 15 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said PBX interface is managed and controlled through program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a programming interface, wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX.
- 20 4. The system of claim 2, wherein said PBX interface is managed and controlled through program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a programming

interface, wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

6. The system of claim 2, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

7. The system of claim 3, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

8. The system of claim 4, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

9. A method of providing unified messaging to an individual subscriber, comprising:  
assigning a DID number serviced by a system communication platform to said individual subscriber;

forwarding one or more phone numbers associated with said individual subscriber to said DID number; and

configuring said system communication platform to store a first message received via said DID number into a network message mailbox associated with said system communication platform, and to forward said first message to a local message mailbox cache associated with a corporate communication platform coupled to a private branch exchange apparatus, wherein said corporate communication platform and said private branch exchange apparatus are located at the premises of a corporate subscriber affiliated with said individual subscriber.

10. An apparatus for providing unified messaging to an individual subscriber, comprising:

a system communication platform configured to service a DID number assigned to said individual subscriber, to store a first message received via said DID number into a network message mailbox associated with said system communication platform, and to forward said first message to a local message mailbox cache associated with a corporate communication platform coupled to a private branch exchange apparatus, wherein said corporate communication platform and said private branch exchange apparatus are located at the premises of a corporate subscriber affiliated with said individual subscriber.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging and fax messaging.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging and e-mail messaging.

5 14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging, fax messaging, and e-mail messaging.

15. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said unified messaging includes fax messaging and e-mail messaging.

10 16. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

configuring said corporate communication platform to command said private branch exchange apparatus to activate the message waiting light of said individual subscriber when said first message is forwarded to said local message mailbox cache associated with said corporate communication platform.

15 17. An apparatus for providing unified messaging to an individual subscriber, comprising:

a system communication platform configured to service two or more DID numbers assigned to said individual subscriber, to store a first message received via any one of said DID numbers into a network message mailbox associated with said system communication platform, and to forward said first message to a local message mailbox cache associated with a corporate communication platform coupled to a private branch exchange apparatus, wherein said corporate communication platform and

said private branch exchange apparatus are located at the premises of a corporate subscriber affiliated with said individual subscriber.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging and fax messaging.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging and e-mail messaging.

21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging, fax messaging, and e-mail messaging.

22. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said unified messaging includes fax messaging and e-mail messaging.

23. A method of providing unified messaging to an individual subscriber, comprising:  
assigning two or more DID numbers serviced by a system communication platform to said individual subscriber;  
forwarding one or more phone numbers associated with said individual subscriber to one of said DID numbers; and

A' configuring said system communication platform to store a first message received via each of said DID numbers into a network message mailbox associated with said system communication platform, and to forward said first message to a local message mailbox cache associated with a corporate communication platform coupled to a private branch exchange apparatus, wherein said corporate communication platform and said private branch exchange apparatus are located at the premises of a corporate subscriber affiliated with said individual subscriber.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

configuring said corporate communication platform to command said private branch exchange apparatus to activate the message waiting light of said individual subscriber when said first message is forwarded to said local message mailbox cache associated with said corporate communication platform.

25. An apparatus for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a wide-area network, comprising:

a corporate communication platform coupled to a switched backbone, integrated with a PBX via a PBX interface, and comprising a slave message mailbox cache, wherein said slave message mailbox cache is synchronized with a master message mailbox accessible via said switched backbone.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said switched backbone is the Internet.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said PBX interface is managed and controlled through program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a

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programming interface, wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX.

28. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said PBX interface is managed and controlled through  
5 program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a programming interface, wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX.

29. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said  
10 PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

30. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said  
15 PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

31. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said  
PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

32. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

5 33. A method of providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services to one or more individual subscribers associated with a corporate subscriber, comprising:

integrating a corporate communication platform with said corporate subscriber's PBX system via a PBX interface;

10 coupling said corporate communication platform to said switched backbone and assigning a network identifier to said corporate communication platform;

assigning said corporate communication platform to be serviced by a system communication platform accessible via said switched backbone, wherein said corporate communication platform comprises a slave message mailbox cache synchronized with a master message mailbox on said system communication platform;

15 initializing a network mailbox on said system communication platform for each said individual subscribers; and

transmitting copies of all messages received at said system communication platform that correspond to each of said individual subscribers to said corporate communication platform.

20 34. The method of claim 33, wherein said switched backbone is the Internet.



35. The method of claim 33, wherein said PBX interface is managed and controlled through program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a programming interface, wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein said PBX interface is managed and controlled through program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a programming interface, wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX.

37. The method of claim 33, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate the message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache.

5 41. The system of claim 1, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging.

42. The system of claim 1, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging and fax messaging.

10 43. The system of claim 1, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging and e-mail messaging.

44. The system of claim 1, wherein said unified messaging includes voice messaging, fax messaging, and e-mail messaging.

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45. The system of claim 1, wherein said unified messaging includes fax messaging and e-mail messaging.

46. The system of claim 2, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs,  
20 digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

47. The system of claim 3, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

48. The system of claim 4, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

49. The system of claim 5, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

50. The system of claim 6, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

51. The system of claim 7, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

52. The system of claim 8, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

53. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

54. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

AI 5 55. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

56. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

10 57. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

58. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

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59. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

20 60. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

61. The method of claim 33, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

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5 62. The method of claim 34, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

63. The method of claim 35, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

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10 64. The method of claim 36, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

65. The method of claim 37, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

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66. The method of claim 38, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

20 67. The method of claim 39, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

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68. The method of claim 40, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

69. The system of claim 1, wherein said PBX is selected from the group consisting of analog PBXs,

5 digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs.

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